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Reports of the Cambridge Anthropological Expedition to Torres Straits. Volume VI. Sociology, Magic and Religion of the Eastern Islanders. xx and 316 pp., Map and Illustrations. The University Press, Cambridge, 1908.

The sixth, and, in series, the final. volume of the reports of this very valuable and detailed study of the people of the islands of Torres Straits appears out of order, the first and fourth volumes being still under preparation. It deals wholly with the three small islands of Mer, Dauar and Waier and its extent is sufficiently shown by the subordinate volume title "Sociology, Magic and Religion of the Eastern Islanders." Inasmuch as Dauar and Waier are but outlying islets and scantily populated, Mer is the theatre of most of the information here recorded and the work might well have been distinguished as a study of the Miriam.

In fourteen chapters we are introduced to a knowledge of the Miriam through their folk-tales, genealogies, kinship, personal names, birth and childhood customs and the limitation of children, courtship and marriage, the regulation of marriage, funeral ceremonies, property and inheritance, social organization, trade, quarrels and warfare, magic, and religion; the several essays are credited to Dr. A. C. Haddon, Dr. W. H. R. Rivers, C. S. Myers and A. Wilkin.

All is very systematic, all very thorough and detailed. In fact it must be acknowledged that this volume is really the first introduction of the Miriam to the world. Where our debt is so great and our acknowledgment of that obligation is so frank, it seems out of place to suggest that the work might have been better done if there were more of it. This is by no means a matter of volume. The authors have apparently exhausted their capacities for research and have faithfully set down the most minute details. Objects have been measured with painful accuracy, places have been oriented, individuals have been checked up in the tables of the census of ancestors. All is very precise, most definite, the result is a museum of the Miriam.

At this point we incline to differ with the faithful recorders of this expedition. Not the lowliest of men may properly be considered a museum specimen to be set on end behind the glass of a row of cases until he has become a mummy or an anatomical preparation. Until the day of his death he moves so long as he lives and has his being, he is always manifesting his inner life and impressing it upon the outer world. The work in this volume is altogether external, a close record of things done and of objects made, very minute in the study of the result and very careful in the account of the manner of the doing and the method of the making.

But we look in vain for a note of the compulsive manhood that instigates the doing, that accomplishes the making. The anthropologist in the field should recognize that it is not enough to collect and to tag the external phenomena. With the elemental savage, above all, should he put himself in his place. His greatest duty is to get inside and to look out. In some of the dances of the esoteric cult among the Miriam it has been considered valuable to note that these steps and those are performed widdershins. The record is of great value. Some of its value we think has been obscured when it is explained that the motion is contrary to the movement of the hands of the clock. It diverts the interpretation from the solar sweep which was familiar to the Miriam before trade brought clocks to them. But the value would have been far richer if one of

these observers had been able to ascertain the reason which led the Miriam dancer to pursue this course.

Anthropological research may no longer be content with the record of the answers to its questionings of "What?", for there is always an underlying "Why?" to be answered. Anthropology without psychology must ever be a record of arid facts. The record may serve as material upon which the later student may grope his way into the soul of the men out of whom the facts have arisen. In far too many cases that must be our only material. How much easier it will be when the observer in the field puts life into his faithful fact record by adding no less faithful note of the psychology of the man under examination.

WILLIAM CHURCHILL.

The Geology of the Mikonui Subdivision, North Westland. By P. G. Morgan. New Zealand Geological Survey, Department of Mines, *Bull.* No. 6 (N. S.), pp. ix-175, 29 ills., 12 maps and 2 diagrams. Wellington, N. Z., 1908.

This report deals with a small area on the west side of South Island. Portions of the district are among the wildest in New Zealand and provisions, tents, instruments, etc., had to be carried into the remotest parts of the mountain ranges. Many miles of foot-paths had to be cut, streams forded and precipices scaled.

Of special interest is the section on bird-life which is unusually full. The one-sided contest between the imported pest, the weasel, and the flightless birds, is described, as also the extraordinary migrations of some of the flying birds which migrate from far northerly islands in the South Pacific to New Zealand. The cuckoo makes a journey, each year, of about 900 miles from land to land. The zones of tree growth are also described from an ecological stand-point. The principal industries of the district are grazing, with only the most trifling development of the growth of cereals and root-crops. Mining has become an important industry and the major part of the report deals with those geological features related to the development of this industry.

The alpine chain of North Westland is part of an ancient peneplain uplifted by mountain making movements to its present position. The western portion descends in an indistinct, step-like fashion to the shore, but along lines parallel to the main axis of the mountains the summits have accordant altitudes that suggest an ancient baselevel of erosion though it is not certain, from the detailed descriptions, whether this interpretation can be accepted without further analysis. The flat tops of the hills in the foot hills area are the most suggestive features mentioned in the discussion. While the report as a whole represents very careful work, attention may be called to the obscure passages relating to ice erosion, p. 46; and the ineffective analysis of Hanging Valleys, p. 55, where the phrases "apparently" and "one must suppose" in critical places in the argument entirely invalidate the force of the discussion concerning the ability of ice to modify valley forms. One of the most interesting features is the overthrust of schist upon river gravels and its possible indication of very recent elevation of the New Zealand Alps (p. 72).

ISAIAH BOWMAN.

Chinese Immigration. By Mary Roberts Coolidge, Ph. D. x and 531 pp., and Index. Henry Holt & Company, New York, 1909. \$1.75.

In 1892 the Geary bill, making it illegal for any Chinese, except diplomats